AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for processing communications between a sender and at least one recipient, the method comprising:

obtaining a request from the sender to transmit an electronic document to at least one recipient;

obtaining an electronic document corresponding to the request from the sender;

processing the electronic document, wherein processing the electronic document includes encrypting the electronic document with an encryption key corresponding to at least one recipient;

verifying the identity of the designated at least one recipient;

upon verification, establishing a secured communication channel with the at least one recipient; ~~and~~

verifying the identity of the sender;

transmitting the processed electronic document to the designated at least one recipient;

wherein the sender and the designated at least one recipient do not verify the identity of each other; and

wherein the sender and the designated at least one recipient do not exchange encryption keys.

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein obtaining a request to transmit an electronic document includes obtaining a request via an Internet Web browser.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein obtaining an electronic document includes:

establishing a secure communication connection with the sender; and

obtaining an encrypted document.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein establishing a secure communication connection includes establishing a secure sockets layer communication channel.

5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein obtaining a request from the sender to transmit an electronic document includes obtaining a request to append an electronic signature corresponding to the sender to the electronic document.

6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein processing electronic document includes:

appending an electronic signature corresponding to the sender; and

encrypting the electronic signature corresponding to the sender with a sender specific encryption key.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein establishing a communication channel with the at least one recipient includes:

transmitting an electronic mail message to the designated at least one recipient, the electronic mail message including a unique identifier; and

obtaining a communication from the designated at least one recipient including the unique identifier.

8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the unique identifier is a hyperlink, and wherein establishing a communication channel includes obtaining a request to access a Web site corresponding to the hyperlink.

9. (Cancel)

10. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim [[9]]47, wherein the identity verification includes a unique identifier submitted with a request.

11. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim [[9]]47, wherein the identity verification includes a password.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

12. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim [[9]]47, wherein the identity verification includes verification from a third-party source.

13. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising transmitting a verification corresponding to the identity of a sender to the designated at least one recipient.

14. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining a request to append an electronic signature corresponding to the recipient to the electronic document;

logically associating an electronic signature corresponding to the designated at least one recipient; and

encrypting the electronic signature corresponding to the designated at least one recipient with a recipient specific encryption key.

15. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 14 further comprising:

establishing a communication channel with a second designated recipient; and

transmitting the processed electronic document to the designated second recipient;

wherein the sender and the designated second recipient do not exchange encryption keys.

16. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 15 further comprising:

obtaining a request to append an electronic signature corresponding to the second recipient to the electronic document;

logically associating an electronic signature corresponding to the second recipient; and

encrypting the electronic signature corresponding to the second recipient with a second recipient specific encryption key.

17. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in any one of Claims 1-16.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

18. (Original) A computer system including a processor, a memory, and an operating system, the computer system operable to perform the method recited in any one of Claims 1-16.

19. (Currently amended) A system for processing communications, the system comprising:

a sender computing device operable to transmit a request to process an electronic document;

at least one recipient computing device corresponding to an identifiable communication channel; and

a document processing server, the document processing server operable to verify the identify of the sender and the at least one recipient and to establish secure communications with the sender computing device and the at least one recipient computing device;

wherein the document processing server processes an electronic document and transmits the processed electronic document between the sender computing device and the recipient computing device without the sender computing device and the at least one recipient computing device exchanging encryption keys; and

wherein the sender and the at least one recipient do not verify the identity of each other.

20. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the sender computing device includes a browser application program operable to request a Web page for requesting the processing of the electronic document.

21. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 20, wherein the browser application is operable to establish a secure communication channel with the document processing server without additional participation by a sender.

22. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the secure communication channel is a secure sockets layer communication channel.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

23. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the secure communication channel is a transport layer security communication channel.

24. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the request to process the electronic document includes a request to append a signature corresponding to a sender to the electronic document.

25. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 24, wherein the document processing server is further operable to:

logically associate the electronic signature corresponding to the sender to the electronic document; and

encrypting the electronic signature corresponding to the sender with a sender specific encryption key.

26. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the recipient computing device is operable to obtain electronic mail message including a unique identifier corresponding to a recipient and further operable to establish a secure communication channel with the document processing server.

27. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the recipient computing device includes a browser application operable to establish a secure communication channel with a document processing server without requiring additional participation by a recipient.

28. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 27, wherein the browser application is operable to establish a secure sockets layer communication channel.

29. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 27, wherein the browser application is operable to establish a transport layer security communication channel.

30. (Canceled)

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

31. (Currently amended) The system as recited in Claim [[30]]48, wherein the identity verification is the possession of the unique identifier.

32. (Currently amended) The system as recited in Claim [[30]]48, wherein the identity verification is the use of a password.

33. (Currently amended) The system as recited in Claim [[30]]48, wherein the identity verification is the utilization of a third party verification service.

34. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the document processing server is further operable to transmit sender identity verification to the recipient computing device.

35. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the document processing server is further operable to:

append an electronic signature corresponding to the recipient to the electronic document; and

encrypt the electronic signature corresponding to the recipient with a recipient specific encryption key.

36. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 35 further comprising at least two recipient computing devices corresponding to at least two identifiable communication channels.

37. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for processing communications between a sender and ~~at least one recipient~~ a plurality of recipients comprising:

an interface component operable to establish secure communication with the sender computing device and ~~the recipient computing device~~ each of the plurality of recipient computing devices without requiring the exchange of encryption keys between the sender

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

computing device and ~~the recipient computing device~~ the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices;

a document processing component operable to verify the identity of the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices and the sender computing device and to process document requests from the sender computing device and append at least an electronic signature corresponding to [[a]] the sender;

wherein the sender computing does not verify the identity of the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices; and

wherein the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices does not verify the identity of sender computing device.

38. (Original) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 37, wherein the interface component is operable to establish a Web browser based secure communication.

39. (Original) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 38, wherein the Web browser based secure communication is a secure sockets layer communication channel.

40. (Original) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 38, wherein the Web browser based secure communication is a transport layer security communication channel.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim [[41]] 49, wherein the identity verification includes the possession of a unique identifier.

43. (Currently amended) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim [[41]] 49, wherein the identity verification includes the utilization of a password.

44. (Currently amended) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim [[41]] 49, wherein the identity verification includes a third party verification service.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

45. (Original) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 37, wherein the document processing component is operable to append an electronic signature corresponding to the recipient.

46. (Canceled)

47. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein verifying the identity of the designated at least one recipient includes obtaining an identity verification from the designated at least one recipient.

48. (New) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the document processing server is further operable to obtain an identity verification from the at least one recipient and the sender.

49. (New) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 37, wherein the document processing component is operable to obtain an identify verification from the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices and the sender computing device.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100